REMARKS

Claims 35-65 are presented for examination, claims 1-34 and 66-114 having been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

New claims 115-119 are similar to the respective independent claims elected for prosecution.

INTERFERENCE

Applicants attach hereto a chart demonstrating correspondence between the application claims 35-65 and those of various patents. A separate chart listing Claims 66-114 has also been provided.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

New claim 120 is believed to link claim 66 and 55, and clearly demonstrates the close correspondence of these inventions.

New claim 121 is believed to link claim 92 and 47, and clearly demonstrates the close correspondence of these inventions.

New claim 122 is believed to link claim 113 and 55, and clearly demonstrates the close correspondence of these inventions.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that, with respect to claims 66-100 and 113-114, that the restriction requirement be traversed and otherwise withdrawn, as the respective inventions are linked through proper linking claims showing the correspondence of various claim terms. It is believed that the compelling state interest in resolving interference issues, and issuing only one patent for an inventive concept, compels consolidated proceedings including the present application, US 5,724,567, 5,758,257, 5,754,939, 5,798,785 and 6,136,316.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 35-38, 50-51, 55-56, 58 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being "clearly" anticipated by Hey, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,996,642 and 4,870,579.

The Hey references relate to a system which seeks to relate users to other users by inferred common likes. Therefore, while a "persistent user-specific profile," or its analogue, is created and stored, there is no need for, or disclosure of, any storage of "content records". That is, all the system needs to store, or indeed is disclosed as storing, is an <u>identification</u> of the content. Likewise, since these "content records" are not themselves stored by the system according to Hey, they are neither accessed nor presented. The system described by Hey provides no enabling teaching, nor suggestion, that the content itself (e.g., content records) should be delivered within the same system as the recommendation relating thereto.

Thus, with respect to claim 35, Hey specifically fails to provide:

     means for storing a plurality of content records;

     means for accessing the content records;

     means for presenting to the user the related content records;

With respect to claim 40, Hey fails to provide:

     storing a plurality of content records;

     receiving a user request for content records;

     presenting to the user the related content records.

With respect to claims 47, 55 and 58, Hey fails to automatically generate the user-specific profile, since the Hey system provides a recommendation only, and not access to the objects themselves, and therefore does not have the necessary information to automatically generate the user-specific profile based on access history.

For example, it is clear that the content records of claim 35 cannot be the rating information presented by the system according to Hey, since the user rates the movie, not the movie recommender system. Thus, the Examiner's rejection is inconsistent with the claims, and must fail.
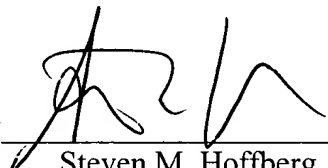
CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner also rejects claims 49, 52-54, 57 and 60-65 as being obvious over 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Hey '579 or Hey '642. As above, the system according to Hey fails to teach or suggest the storage or presentation of content records, or automatic updating of user profiles based on access, and therefore the references are believed to be overcome.

It is noted that, the Hashimoto references, like the Hey references, do not teach or suggest a system for storage or presentation of content records, or the automatic updating of user profiles based on user access.
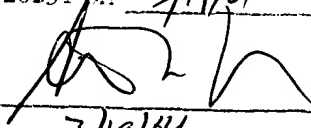
It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present claims are allowable, and an interference declared.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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By _____
Date 3/19/04

CLAIM CORRESPONDENCE CHART
NON-ELECTED CLAIMS

APPLICATION CLAIM	PATENT CLAIM	CLAIM NO
66. A system, comprising:	Generic	5,798,785, Claim 1
means for receiving subscriber specific data;		
means for receiving program control information; and		
program selection means, operably connected to the storing means and the receiving means, for selecting one or more programs using the user subscriber specific information and the program control information.	program selection means, operably connected to the storing means and the receiving means, for selecting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the program control information, comprising: ...	
67. The system according to claim 66, being a set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data, the set top terminal comprising:	1. A set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data, the set top terminal comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 1
said subscriber specific data receiving means being means for gathering subscriber specific data to be used in selecting programs;	a means for gathering the subscriber specific data to be used in selecting programs;	5,798,785, Claim 1
means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data;	a means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data;	5,798,785, Claim 1
said program control information receiving means being means for receiving the program control information containing the program description data;	means for receiving the program control information containing the program description data;	5,798,785, Claim 1
said program selection means, being operably connected to the storing means and the means for receiving program control information, for selecting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the program control information, comprising:	program selection means, operably connected to the storing means and the receiving means, for selecting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the program control information, comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 1

APPLICATION CLAIM	PATENT CLAIM	CLAIM NO
a processor, wherein the subscriber programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data; and	a processor, wherein the subscriber programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data; and	5,798,785, Claim 1
means, operably connected to the program selection means, for suggesting the selected programs to the subscriber.	means, operably connected to the program selection means, for suggesting the selected programs to the subscriber.	5,798,785, Claim 1
		5,798,785, Claim 1
68. The system of claim 67, wherein:		
the set top terminal receives program signals and the program selection means resides within a set top terminal;	3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the program selection means resides within a set top terminal.	5,798,785, Claim 3
the set top terminal receives menu details from the television program delivery system, a display is used, and wherein the means for gathering subscriber specific data comprises:	4. The set top terminal of claim 1 wherein the set top terminal receives menu details from the television program delivery system, a display is used, and wherein the means for gathering subscriber specific data comprises:	5,798,785, Claim 4
a memory device for storing received menu details,	a memory device for storing received menu details;	5,798,785, Claim 4
the stored menu details include a cursor overlay, the means for generating menu screens comprises a means for generating the cursor overlay, the generated menu screens are displayed on the display, and wherein the subscriber interface means comprises a means for moving the generated cursor overlay on the displayed menu screens;	5. The set top terminal of claim 4 wherein the stored menu details include a cursor overlay, the means for generating menu screens comprises a means for generating the cursor overlay, the generated menu screens are displayed on the display, and wherein the subscriber interface means comprises a means for moving the generated cursor overlay on the displayed menu screens.	5,798,785, Claim 5
a means, connected to the memory device, for generating menu screens by integrating the program control information with the stored menu details;	a means, connected to the memory device, for generating menu screens by integrating the program control information with the stored menu details;	5,798,785, Claim 4
a means, connected to the generating means, for eliciting subscriber responses using the generated menu screens;	a means, connected to the generating means, for eliciting subscriber responses using the generated menu screens; and	5,798,785, Claim 4
a subscriber interface means for entering subscriber responses;	a subscriber interface means for entering subscriber responses.	5,798,785, Claim 4
the set top terminal further comprising a means for generating a signal identifying a selected program's location on the received program signal.	6. The set top terminal of claim 1 wherein a display is used and wherein the set top terminal receives program signals, the set top terminal further comprising a means for generating a signal identifying	5,798,785, Claim 6

APPLICATION CLAIM	PATENT CLAIM	CLAIM NO
	a selected program's location on the received program signal.	
69. The system according to claim 66, being a set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data indicative of a subscriber's programming preferences, wherein the set top terminal receives menu details from the television program delivery system, the set top terminal comprising:	7. A set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data indicative of a subscriber's programming preferences, wherein the set top terminal receives menu details from the television program delivery system, the set top terminal comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 7
said subscriber specific receiving means being means for gathering the subscriber specific data indicative of subscriber preferences to be used in selecting programs, wherein the means for gathering subscriber specific data comprises:	a means for gathering the subscriber specific data indicative of subscriber preferences to be used in selecting programs, wherein the means for gathering subscriber specific data comprises:	5,798,785, Claim 7
a first means for storing received menu details;	a first means for storing received menu details;	5,798,785, Claim 7
a means for generating menu screens by integrating the program control information with the stored menu details;	a means for generating menu screens by integrating the program control information with the stored menu details;	5,798,785, Claim 7
a display, connected to the generating means, wherein menu screens to elicit subscriber responses are displayed; and	a display, connected to the generating means, wherein menu screens to elicit subscriber responses are displayed; and	5,798,785, Claim 7
a subscriber interface means for entering subscriber responses to displayed menu screens;	a subscriber interface means for entering subscriber responses to displayed menu screens;	5,798,785, Claim 7
a second means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data;	a second means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data;	5,798,785, Claim 7
said receiving means being means for receiving the program control information comprising program description data;	a means for receiving the program control information comprising program description data;	5,798,785, Claim 7
said program selection means being operably connected to the second storing means and the receiving means, for selecting one or more programs using the subscriber specific data and program	a program selection means, operably connected to the second storing means and the receiving means, for selecting one or more programs using the subscriber specific data and program	5,798,785, Claim 7

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APPLICATION CLAIM	PATENT CLAIM	CLAIM NO
control information whereby the selected programs correspond to the subscriber's programming preferences; and	control information whereby the selected programs correspond to the subscriber's programming preferences; and	
wherein the display is used to suggest the selected programs to the subscriber.	wherein the display is used to suggest the selected programs to the subscriber.	5,798,785, Claim 7
70. The set top terminal of claim 69, wherein the stored menu details include a cursor overlay and the means for generating menu screens comprises a means for generating the cursor overlay, and wherein the subscriber interface means comprises a means for moving the generated cursor overlay on the displayed menu screens.	8. The set top terminal of claim 7 wherein the stored menu details include a cursor overlay and the means for generating menu screens comprises a means for generating the cursor overlay, and wherein the subscriber interface means comprises a means for moving the generated cursor overlay on the displayed menu screens.	5,798,785, Claim 8
71. The system according to claim 66, being a set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data indicative of a subscriber's programming preferences, the set top terminal comprising:	9. A set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data indicative of a subscriber's programming preferences, the set top terminal comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 9
said subscriber specific data receiving means being means for gathering the subscriber specific data indicative of subscriber preferences to be used in selecting programs;	a means for gathering the subscriber specific data indicative of subscriber preferences to be used in selecting programs;	5,798,785, Claim 9
means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data;	a means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data;	5,798,785, Claim 9
said receiving means being means for receiving the program control information comprising program description data;	a means for receiving the program control information comprising program description data;	5,798,785, Claim 9
said program selection means being operably connected to the storing means and the receiving means, for selecting one or more programs using the subscriber specific data and program control information whereby the selected programs correspond to the subscriber's	a program selection means, operably connected to the storing means and the receiving means, for selecting one or more programs using the subscriber specific data and program control information whereby the selected programs correspond to the subscriber's	5,798,785, Claim 9

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APPLICATION CLAIM	PATENT CLAIM	CLAIM NO
programming preferences, wherein the program selection means comprises:	programming preferences, wherein the program selection means comprises:	
a means for matching the subscriber specific data to a program described by the program control information; and	a means for matching the subscriber specific data to a program described by the program control information; and	5,798,785, Claim 9
wherein the set top terminal further comprises a means for tuning to the matched program; and	wherein the set top terminal further comprises a means for tuning to the matched program; and	5,798,785, Claim 9
a means, operably connected to the program selection means, for displaying for suggesting the selected programs to the subscriber.	a means, operably connected to the program selection means, for displaying for suggestion the selected programs to the subscriber.	5,798,785, Claim 9
72. The system according to claim 66, being a set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data indicative of a subscriber's programming preferences, wherein the set top terminal receives program signals, the set top terminal comprising:	10. A set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data indicative of a subscriber's programming preferences, wherein the set top terminal receives program signals, the set top terminal comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 10
said subscriber specific receiving means being means for gathering the subscriber specific data indicative of subscriber preferences to be used in selecting programs;	a means for gathering the subscriber specific data indicative of subscriber preferences to be used in selecting programs;	5,798,785, Claim 10
means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data;	a means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data;	5,798,785, Claim 10
said receiving means being means for receiving the program control information comprising program description data;	a means for receiving the program control information comprising program description data;	5,798,785, Claim 10
said program selection means being operably connected to the storing means and the receiving means, for selecting one or more programs using the subscriber specific data and program control information whereby the selected programs correspond to the subscriber's programming preferences;	a program selection means, operably connected to the storing means and the receiving means, for selecting one or more programs using the subscriber specific data and program control information whereby the selected programs correspond to the subscriber's programming preferences;	5,798,785, Claim 10
a means, operably connected to the	a means, operably connected to the	5,798,785,

APPLICATION CLAIM	PATENT CLAIM	CLAIM NO
program selection means, for displaying for suggesting the selected programs to the subscriber; and	program selection means, for displaying for suggestion the selected programs to the subscriber; and	Claim 10
a means for generating a signal identifying a selected program's location on the received program signal.	a means for generating a signal identifying a selected program's location on the received program signal.	5,798,785, Claim 10
73. The system according to claim 66, being a set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing menu screen details and program description data, and a subscriber's programming preferences, by searching program abstracts stored in a database for programs which correlate to key words mapped from one or more subscriber responses to search criteria containing a plurality of selectable entries on one or more menu screens, further comprising:	14. A set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing menu screen details and program description data, and a subscriber's programming preferences, by searching program abstracts stored in a database for programs which correlate to key words mapped from one or more subscriber responses to search criteria containing a plurality of selectable entries on one or more menu screens, comprising:

a means for receiving the program control information; | 5,798,785, Claim 14 |
a means for storing the program abstracts in a database;	a means for storing the program abstracts in a database;	5,798,785, Claim 14
a memory means, connected to the receiving means, for storing the menu screen details;	a memory means, connected to the receiving means, for storing the menu screen details;	5,798,785, Claim 14
means, connected to the memory means for storing menu screen details, for generating menu screens using the stored menu screen details, wherein the menu screens are generated by integrating the program control information with the stored menu screen details, and wherein the menu screens list search criteria comprising the plurality of selectable entries;	means, connected to the memory means for storing menu screen details, for generating menu screens using the stored menu screen details, wherein the menu screens are generated by integrating the program control information with the stored menu screen details, and wherein the menu screens list search criteria comprising the plurality of selectable entries;	5,798,785, Claim 14
a display wherein the generated menu screens are displayed;	a display wherein the generated menu screens are displayed;	5,798,785, Claim 14
said subscriber specific data receiving means being:		5,798,785, Claim 14

APPLICATION CLAIM	PATENT CLAIM	CLAIM NO
a subscriber interface means for entering subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries on the menu screens;	a subscriber interface means for entering subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries on the menu screens;	5,798,785, Claim 14
a means, connected to the subscriber interface means, for mapping the subscriber responses into the key words;	a means, connected to the subscriber interface means, for mapping the subscriber responses into the key words;	5,798,785, Claim 14
a means, connected to the mapping means, for searching the program abstract database for programs consisting of one or more of the key words;	a means, connected to the mapping means, for searching the program abstract database for programs consisting of one or more of the key words;	5,798,785, Claim 14
said program selection means being operably connected to the receiving means and searching means, for selecting one or more programs, wherein programs are selected using the search of the searching means; and	a program selection means, operably connected to the receiving means and searching means, for selecting one or more programs, wherein programs are selected using the search of the searching means; and	5,798,785, Claim 14
wherein the display is used to suggest the selected programs to the subscriber.	wherein the display is used to suggest the selected programs to the subscriber.	5,798,785, Claim 14
74. The system of claim 73, wherein:		
program abstracts are included in the received program control information, and wherein the set top terminal further comprises a means connected to the receiving means, for reprogramming the means for storing the program abstracts to include the received program abstracts;	15. The set top terminal of claim 14 wherein program abstracts are included in the received program control information, and wherein the set top terminal further comprises a means connected to the receiving means, for reprogramming the means for storing the program abstracts to include the received program abstracts.	5,798,785, Claim 15
the subscriber interface means comprises a means for interpreting the subscriber responses and a means for storing the subscriber responses; and	16. The set top terminal of claim 14 wherein the subscriber interface means comprises a means for interpreting the subscriber responses and a means for storing the subscriber responses.	5,798,785, Claim 16
the stored menu screen details include a cursor overlay and the means for generating menu screens comprises a means for generating the cursor overlay and wherein the subscriber interface means comprises a means for moving the generated cursor overlay on the displayed menu screens.	20. The set top terminal of claim 14 wherein the stored menu screen details include a cursor overlay and the means for generating menu screens comprises a means for generating the cursor overlay and wherein the subscriber interface means comprises a means for moving the generated cursor overlay on the displayed menu screens.	5,798,785, Claim 20

APPLICATION CLAIM	PATENT CLAIM	CLAIM NO
75. The system according to claim 66, being a set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs through the use of program control information and program watched data indicative of a subscriber's most watched programs, the set top terminal further comprising:	25. A set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs through the use of program control information and program watched data indicative of a subscriber's most watched programs, the set top terminal comprising: a means for receiving program control information;	5,798,785, Claim 25
said means for receiving subscriber specific data being means for gathering the program watched data;	a means for gathering the program watched data;	5,798,785, Claim 25
a memory means for storing the gathered program watched data;	a memory means for storing the gathered program watched data;	5,798,785, Claim 25
said program selection means being operably connected to the memory means and the receiving means, for selecting a program using the stored program watched data and the received program control information; and	a program selection means, operably connected to the memory means and the receiving means, for selecting a program using the stored program watched data and the received program control information;	5,798,785, Claim 25
a means, operably connected to the program selection means, for displaying the selected program.	a means, operably connected to the program selection means, for displaying the selected program.	5,798,785, Claim 25
76. The system according to claim 66, being a set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information and channel watched data indicative of a subscriber's favorite channels, the set top terminal comprising:	26. A set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information and channel watched data indicative of a subscriber's favorite channels, the set top terminal comprising: .... a means for receiving the program control information;	5,798,785, Claim 26
said means for receiving subscriber specific data comprising means for gathering the channel watched data;	a means for gathering the channel watched data;	5,798,785, Claim 26
a memory means for storing the gathered channel watched data;	a memory means for storing the gathered channel watched data;	5,798,785, Claim 26
said program selection means comprising:		
a processing means, operably connected to the memory means and the receiving	a processing means, operably connected to the memory means and the receiving	5,798,785, Claim 26

APPLICATION CLAIM	PATENT CLAIM	CLAIM NO
means, for determining suggested favorite channels, comprising:	means, for determining suggested favorite channels, comprising:	
a channel selection means for selecting a plurality of channels using the stored channel watched data; and	a channel selection means for selecting a plurality of channels using the stored channel watched data; and	5,798,785, Claim 26
means to generate a signal identifying the selected channels; and	means to generate a signal identifying the selected channels; and	5,798,785, Claim 26
a means, operably connected to the processing means, for displaying a representation of the selected channels.	a means, operably connected to the processing means, for displaying a representation of the selected channels.	5,798,785, Claim 26
77. The system of claim 66, being a set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, by searching program abstracts for programs which correlate to key words mapped from one or more subscriber responses to a plurality of selectable entries presented on a display, further comprising:	38. A set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, by searching program abstracts for programs which correlate to key words mapped from one or more subscriber responses to a plurality of selectable entries presented on a display, comprising: a means for receiving the program control information;	5,798,785, Claim 38
a means for storing the program abstracts in a database;	a means for storing the program abstracts in a database;	5,798,785, Claim 38
a means for presenting the plurality of selectable entries to the subscriber using the display;	a means for presenting the plurality of selectable entries to the subscriber using the display;	5,798,785, Claim 38
said means for receiving subscriber specific data comprising a subscriber interface means for entering subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries;	a subscriber interface means for entering subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries;	5,798,785, Claim 38
a means, connected to the subscriber interface means, for mapping the subscriber responses into the key words;	a means, connected to the subscriber interface means, for mapping the subscriber responses into the key words;	5,798,785, Claim 38
a means, connected to the mapping means and storing means, for searching the program abstract database for programs consisting of one or more of the key words;	a means, connected to the mapping means and storing means, for searching the program abstract database for programs consisting of one or more of the key words;	5,798,785, Claim 38
said program selection means being	a program selection means, operably	5,798,785,

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APPLICATION CLAIM	PATENT CLAIM	CLAIM NO
operably connected to the receiving means and searching means, for selecting one or more programs, wherein programs are selected using the search of the ' searching means; and	connected to the receiving means and searching means, for selecting one or more programs, wherein programs are selected using the search of the searching means; and	Claim 38
means, connected to the program selection means, for suggesting the selected programs to the subscriber using the display.	means, connected to the program selection means, for suggesting the selected programs to the subscriber using the display.	5,798,785, Claim 38
78. The system of claim 77, wherein:		
program abstracts are included in the received program control information, and wherein the set top terminal further comprises a means, connected to the receiving means, for reprogramming the means for storing the program abstracts to include the received program abstracts;	39. The set top terminal of claim 38 wherein program abstracts are included in the received program control information, and wherein the set top terminal further comprises a means, connected to the receiving means, for reprogramming the means for storing the program abstracts to include the received program abstracts.	5,798,785, Claim 39
the program control information further contains menu screen details and the selectable entries are displayed on one or more menu screens by the presenting means, the set top terminal further comprising:	40. The set top terminal of claim 38 wherein the program control information further contains menu screen details and the selectable entries are displayed on one or more menu screens by the presenting means, the set top terminal further comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 40
a memory means, connected to the receiving means, for storing the menu screen details; and	a memory means, connected to the receiving means, for storing the menu screen details; and	5,798,785, Claim 40
a means, connected to the memory means and the presenting means, for generating menu screens using the stored menu screen details, wherein the menu screens are generated by integrating the program control information with the stored menu screen details, and wherein the generated menu screens list search criteria comprising the plurality of selectable entries; and	a means, connected to the memory means and the presenting means, for generating menu screens using the stored menu screen details, wherein the menu screens are generated by integrating the program control information with the stored menu screen details, and wherein the generated menu screens list search criteria comprising the plurality of selectable entries.	5,798,785, Claim 40
the stored menu screen details include a cursor overlay and the means for generating menu screens comprises a means for generating the cursor overlay,	42. The set top terminal of claim 40 wherein the stored menu screen details include a cursor overlay and the means for generating menu screens comprises a	5,798,785, Claim 42

APPLICATION CLAIM	PATENT CLAIM	CLAIM NO
and wherein the subscriber interface means comprises a means for moving the generated cursor overlay on the displayed menu screens.	means for generating the cursor overlay, and wherein the subscriber interface means comprises a means for moving the generated cursor overlay on the displayed menu screens.	
79. The system of claim 66, being a set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing scheduled program description data, the set top terminal further comprising:	46. A set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing scheduled program description data, the set top terminal comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 46
a means for creating personal profile information;	a means for creating personal profile information;	5,798,785, Claim 46
a means, connected to the creating means, for storing the personal profile information;	a means, connected to the creating means, for storing the personal profile information;	5,798,785, Claim 46
said means for receiving program control information being means for receiving the program control information comprising the scheduled program description data;	means for receiving the program control information comprising the scheduled program description data;	5,798,785, Claim 46
said program selection means being means, connected to the storing means and receiving means, for selecting at least one program for suggestion to the viewer, comprising:	a means, connected to the storing means and receiving means, for selecting at least one program for suggestion to the viewer, comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 46
a means for transforming the personal profile information into preferred program indicators, wherein a preferred program indicator comprises a program category with each program category having a weighted value;	a means for transforming the personal profile information into preferred program indicators, wherein a preferred program indicator comprises a program category with each program category having a weighted value;	5,798,785, Claim 46
a means for matching the preferred program indicators with the scheduled program description data, wherein each scheduled program is assigned a weighted value based on at least one associated program category;	a means for matching the preferred program indicators with the scheduled program description data, wherein each scheduled program is assigned a weighted value based on at least one associated program category;	5,798,785, Claim 46
a means for prioritizing the scheduled programs from highest weighted value programs to lowest weighted value programs; and	a means for prioritizing the scheduled programs from highest weighted value programs to lowest weighted value programs;	5,798,785, Claim 46
a means for indicating one or more	a means for indicating one or more	5,798,785,

APPLICATION CLAIM	PATENT CLAIM	CLAIM NO
programs meeting a predetermined weight related threshold, wherein all other programs are excluded from program suggestion; and	programs meeting a predetermined weight related threshold, wherein all other programs are excluded from program suggestion; and	Claim 46
means, operably connected to the program selection means, for displaying for suggesting the selected programs to the subscriber.	means, operably connected to the program selection means, for displaying for suggestion the selected programs to the subscriber.	5,798,785, Claim 46
80. The system of claim 66, being a set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing scheduled program description data, the set top terminal further comprising:	50. A set top terminal used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing scheduled program description data, the set top terminal comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 50
said means for receiving subscriber specific data being means for gathering program watched data;	a means for gathering program watched data;	5,798,785, Claim 50
a means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the program watched data;	a means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the program watched data;	5,798,785, Claim 50
said means for receiving program control information being means for receiving the program control information comprising the scheduled program description data;	means for receiving the program control information comprising the scheduled program description data;	5,798,785, Claim 50
said program selection means being means, connected to the storing means and receiving means, for selecting at least one program for suggestion to the viewer, comprising:	a means, connected to the storing means and receiving means, for selecting at least one program for suggestion to the viewer, comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 50
a means for transforming the program watched data into preferred program indicators, wherein a program indicator comprises a program category with each program category having a weighted value;	a means for transforming the program watched data into preferred program indicators, wherein a program indicator comprises a program category with each program category having a weighted value;	5,798,785, Claim 50
a means for comparing the preferred program indicators with the scheduled program description data, wherein each scheduled program is assigned a weighted value based on at least one associated program category;	a means for comparing the preferred program indicators with the scheduled program description data, wherein each scheduled program is assigned a weighted value based on at least one associated program category;	5,798,785, Claim 50
a means for prioritizing the scheduled	a means for prioritizing the scheduled	5,798,785,

APPLICATION CLAIM	PATENT CLAIM	CLAIM NO
programs from highest weighted value programs to lowest weighted value programs; and	programs from highest weighted value programs to lowest weighted value programs;	Claim 50
a means for indicating one or more programs meeting a predetermined weight threshold, wherein all other programs are excluded from program suggestion; and	a means for indicating one or more programs meeting a predetermined weight threshold, wherein all other programs are excluded from program suggestion; and	5,798,785, Claim 50
means, operably connected to the program selection means, for displaying for suggesting the selected programs to the subscriber.	means, operably connected to the program selection means, for displaying for suggestion the selected programs to the subscriber.	5,798,785, Claim 50
81. The system of claim 67, wherein the program selection means resides within a network controller.	wherein the program selection means resides within a network controller; and	5,798,785, Claim 52
82. The system according to claim 66, being a terminal for program suggestion using user preference data concerning user preferences and program control information concerning available programs, comprising:	28. A terminal for program suggestion using user preference data concerning user preferences and program control information concerning available programs, comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 28
said means for receiving subscriber specific data comprising means for gathering the user preference data;	a means for gathering the user preference data;	5,798,785, Claim 28
a means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the gathered user preference data;	a means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the gathered user preference data;	5,798,785, Claim 28
said means for receiving program control information comprising means for accessing the program control information;	a means for accessing the program control information;	5,798,785, Claim 28
said program selection means being means, connected to the storing means and accessing means, for selecting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the program control information, comprising:	a means, connected to the storing means and accessing means, for selecting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the program control information, comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 28
a processor, wherein the subscriber programming preferences are generated from the user preference data; and	a processor, wherein the subscriber programming preferences are generated from the user preference data; and	5,798,785, Claim 28
a means, connected to the selecting means, for suggesting the selected	a means, connected to the selecting means, for suggesting the selected	5,798,785, Claim 28

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programs to the user.	programs to the user.	
83. The system of claim 66, being a program suggestion system for suggesting programs to subscribers of a television program delivery system by using program control information containing program description data and by searching program abstracts stored in a database at a network controller, the suggested programs resulting from a search of the program abstracts for key words sent to the network controller from a set top terminal, wherein the key words are mapped from one or more subscriber responses to a plurality of selectable entries at the set top terminal, the system comprising:	36. A program suggestion system for suggesting programs to subscribers of a television program delivery system by using program control information containing program description data and by searching program abstracts stored in a database at a network controller, the suggested programs resulting from a search of the program abstracts for key words sent to the network controller from a set top terminal, wherein the key words are mapped from one or more subscriber responses to a plurality of selectable entries at the set top terminal, the system comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 36
a set top terminal comprising:	a set top terminal comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 36
a means for receiving programs;	a means for receiving programs;	5,798,785, Claim 36
a means for presenting the plurality of selectable entries to the subscriber;	a means for presenting the plurality of selectable entries to the subscriber;	5,798,785, Claim 36
said means for receiving subscriber specific data being a subscriber interface means for entering subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries; and	a subscriber interface means for entering subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries; and	5,798,785, Claim 36
a means, connected to the subscriber interface means, for mapping the subscriber responses into the key words; and	a means, connected to the subscriber interface means, for mapping the subscriber responses into the key words; and	5,798,785, Claim 36
a network controller, networked to the set top terminal, comprising:	a network controller, networked to the set top terminal, comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 36
said means for receiving the program control information;	a means for receiving the program control information;	5,798,785, Claim 36
a means for storing the program abstracts in a data base;	a means for storing the program abstracts in a data base;	5,798,785, Claim 36
a means for gathering the key words;	a means for gathering the key words;	5,798,785, Claim 36
said program selection means being operably connected to the receiving means, gathering means and storing means, for selecting one or more	a program selection means, operably connected to the receiving means, gathering means and storing means, for selecting one or more programs for	5,798,785, Claim 36

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programs for suggestion to the subscriber, comprising:	suggestion to the subscriber, comprising:	
a means for searching the program abstract data base for program abstracts consisting of one or more key words; and	a means for searching the program abstract data base for program abstracts consisting of one or more key words; and	5,798,785, Claim 36
a means for distributing the selected programs to the set top terminal.	a means for distributing the selected programs to the set top terminal.	5,798,785, Claim 36
84. The system of claim 66, being an apparatus for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data, the apparatus comprising:	51. An apparatus for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data, the apparatus comprising: ... a means for receiving the program control information; and	5,798,785, Claim 51
said means for receiving subscriber specific data being means for gathering the subscriber specific data to be used in selecting programs;	a means for gathering the subscriber specific data to be used in selecting programs;	5,798,785, Claim 51
a means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data; and	a means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data;	5,798,785, Claim 51
said program selection means being operably connected to the storing means and the receiving means, for selecting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the program control information, comprising:	a program selection means, operably connected to the storing means and the receiving means, for selecting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the program control information, comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 51
a processor, wherein the subscriber programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data.	a processor, wherein the subscriber programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data.	5,798,785, Claim 51
85. The system according to claim 66, being an apparatus used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data, the apparatus further comprising:	54. An apparatus used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data, the apparatus comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 54
said means for receiving subscriber specific data being a remote control, wherein the subscriber specific data is	a remote control, wherein the subscriber specific data is obtained to be used in selecting programs;	5,798,785, Claim 54

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obtained to be used in selecting programs;		
a memory, operably connected to the remote control, wherein the subscriber specific data is stored;	a memory, operably connected to the remote control, wherein the subscriber specific data is stored;	5,798,785, Claim 54
said means for receiving program control information being a demodulator, wherein the program control information containing the program description data is received;	a demodulator, wherein the program control information containing the program description data is received;	5,798,785, Claim 54
said program selection means being a central processing unit, operably connected to the memory and the demodulator, wherein programs are selected using a subscriber's programming preferences and the program control information, and wherein the subscriber programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data; and	a central processing unit, operably connected to the memory and the demodulator, wherein programs are selected using a subscriber's programming preferences and the program control information, and wherein the subscriber programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data; and	5,798,785, Claim 54
a display, operably connected to the processor, wherein the selected programs are suggested to the subscriber on the display.	a display, operably connected to the processor, wherein the selected programs are suggested to the subscriber on the display.	5,798,785, Claim 54
86. The system of claim 66, being an apparatus used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs through the use of program control information and program watched data indicative of a subscriber's most watched programs, the apparatus comprising:	55. An apparatus used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs through the use of program control information and program watched data indicative of a subscriber's most watched programs, the apparatus comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 55
said means for receiving program control information being a demodulator, wherein the program control information is received;	a demodulator, wherein the program control information is received;	5,798,785, Claim 55
said means for receiving subscriber specific data being a remote control interface, wherein the program watched data is gathered;	a remote control interface, wherein the program watched data is gathered;	5,798,785, Claim 55
a memory, wherein the gathered program watched data is stored;	a memory, wherein the gathered program watched data is stored;	5,798,785, Claim 55
said program selection means being a processor, operably connected to the memory and the demodulator, wherein a	a processor, operably connected to the memory and the demodulator, wherein a program is selected using the stored	5,798,785, Claim 55

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program is selected using the stored program watched data and the received program control information;	program watched data and the received program control information;	
a display, operably connected to the processor, for displaying the selected program.	a display, operably connected to the processor, for displaying the selected program.	5,798,785, Claim 55
87. The system of claim 66, being an apparatus used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, by searching program abstracts for programs which correlate to key words mapped from one or more subscriber responses to a plurality of selectable entries presented on a display, the apparatus further comprising:	56. An apparatus used by subscribers of a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, by searching program abstracts for programs which correlate to key words mapped from one or more subscriber responses to a plurality of selectable entries presented on a display, the apparatus comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 56
said means for receiving program control information being a demodulator, wherein the program control information is demodulated;	a demodulator, wherein the program control information is demodulated;	5,798,785, Claim 56
a memory, connected to the demodulator, wherein the program abstracts are stored;	a memory, connected to the demodulator, wherein the program abstracts are stored;	5,798,785, Claim 56
a combiner, wherein the plurality of selectable entries are presented to the subscriber using the display;	a combiner, wherein the plurality of selectable entries are presented to the subscriber using the display;	5,798,785, Claim 56
said means for receiving subscriber specific data being a subscriber interface, wherein subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries are entered;	a subscriber interface, wherein subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries are entered;	5,798,785, Claim 56
logic circuitry, connected to the subscriber interface, wherein the subscriber responses are mapped into the key words;	logic circuitry, connected to the subscriber interface, wherein the subscriber responses are mapped into the key words;	5,798,785, Claim 56
said program selection means being a processor, operably connected to the logic circuitry and the memory, wherein the stored program abstracts are searched for programs consisting of one or more of the key words, and wherein one or more programs are selected using the search; and	a processor, operably connected to the logic circuitry and the memory, wherein the stored program abstracts are searched for programs consisting of one or more of the key words, and wherein one or more programs are selected using the search; and	5,798,785, Claim 56
wherein the selected programs are	wherein the selected programs are	5,798,785,

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suggested to the subscriber using the display.	suggested to the subscriber using the display.	Claim 56
88. The system according to claim 66, being a network controller, adapted for remotely controlling a plurality of set top terminals in a television program delivery system, for suggesting programs to subscribers by making program suggestions using subscriber specific data and program control information received from a remotely located source containing program description data, wherein the suggested programs are transmitted to the set top terminal, the network controller comprising:	33. A network controller, adapted for remotely controlling a plurality of set top terminals in a television program delivery system, for suggesting programs to subscribers by making program suggestions using subscriber specific data and program control information received from a remotely located source containing program description data, wherein the suggested programs are transmitted to the set top terminal, the network controller comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 33
said means for receiving program control information comprising means for receiving the program control information containing program description data;	a means for receiving the program control information containing program description data;	5,798,785, Claim 33
said means for receiving subscriber specific data comprising means for gathering the subscriber specific data from a set top terminal;	a means for gathering the subscriber specific data from a set top terminal;	5,798,785, Claim 33
a means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data;	a means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data;	5,798,785, Claim 33
said program selection means being means, operably connected to the receiving means and the storing means, for suggesting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the received program control information, comprising:	a means, operably connected to the receiving means and the storing means, for suggesting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the received program control information, comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 33
a processor, wherein the subscriber programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data; and	a processor, wherein the subscriber programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data; and	5,798,785, Claim 33
a means, connected to the suggesting means, for transmitting the suggested programs to the set top terminal for presentation to the subscriber.	a means, connected to the suggesting means, for transmitting the suggested programs to the set top terminal for presentation to the subscriber.	5,798,785, Claim 33
89. The system of claim 88, wherein key words are used in searching program	34. The network controller of claim 33 wherein key words are used in searching	5,798,785, Claim 34

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abstracts to assist in suggesting programs, and wherein the network controller further comprises:	program abstracts to assist in suggesting programs, and wherein the network controller further comprises:	
a means for storing program abstracts; and	a means for storing program abstracts; and	5,798,785, Claim 34
wherein the means for suggesting comprises a means for searching the stored program abstracts for one or more programs consisting of one or more of the key words.	wherein the means for suggesting comprises a means for searching the stored program abstracts for one or more programs consisting of one or more of the key words.	5,798,785, Claim 34
90. The system according to claim 66, being a network controller, adapted for remotely controlling a plurality of set top terminals in a television program delivery system, for suggesting programs to subscribers by making program suggestions using subscriber specific data indicative of a subscriber's programming preferences received from a set top terminal, program control information received from a remotely located source containing program description data, and program abstracts with key words, wherein the suggested programs are transmitted to the set top terminal, the network controller comprising:	35. A network controller, adapted for remotely controlling a plurality of set top terminals in a television program delivery system, for suggesting programs to subscribers by making program suggestions using subscriber specific data indicative of a subscriber's programming preferences received from a set top terminal, program control information received from a remotely located source containing program description data, and program abstracts with key words, wherein the suggested programs are transmitted to the set top terminal, the network controller comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 35
said means for receiving program control information being means for receiving the program control information containing program description data;	a means for receiving the program control information containing program description data;	5,798,785, Claim 35
said means for receiving subscriber specific data being means for gathering the subscriber specific data indicative of subscriber preferences from a set top terminal;	a means for gathering the subscriber specific data indicative of subscriber preferences from a set top terminal;	5,798,785, Claim 35
a means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data;	a means, connected to the gathering means, for storing the subscriber specific data;	5,798,785, Claim 35
a memory means for storing program abstracts;	a memory means for storing program abstracts;	5,798,785, Claim 35
said program selection means being means, operably connected to the receiving means and the storing means,	a means, operably connected to the receiving means and the storing means, for suggesting one or more programs	5,798,785, Claim 35

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for suggesting one or more programs using the stored subscriber specific data and the received program control information, whereby the suggested programs correspond to the subscriber's programming preferences, wherein key words are used in searching the stored program abstracts to assist in suggesting programs, and wherein the means for suggesting comprises:	using the stored subscriber specific data and the received program control information, whereby the suggested programs correspond to the subscriber's programming preferences, wherein key words are used in searching the stored program abstracts to assist in suggesting programs, and wherein the means for suggesting comprises:	
a means for searching the stored program abstracts for one or more programs consisting of one or more of the key words; and	a means for searching the stored program abstracts for one or more programs consisting of one or more of the key words; and	5,798,785, Claim 35
a means, connected to the suggesting means, for transmitting the suggested programs to the set top terminal for presentation to the subscriber.	a means, connected to the suggesting means, for transmitting the suggested programs to the set top terminal for presentation to the subscriber.	5,798,785, Claim 35
91. The system of claim 66, being a network controller for suggesting programs to subscribers of a television program delivery system by using program control information containing program description data and by searching program abstracts for key words that are mapped from one or more subscriber responses received from a set top terminal, further comprising:	37. A network controller for suggesting programs to subscribers of a television program delivery system by using program control information containing program description data and by searching program abstracts for key words that are mapped from one or more subscriber responses received from a set top terminal, comprising: a means for receiving the program control information;	5,798,785, Claim 37
a means for storing the program abstracts in a data base;	a means for storing the program abstracts in a data base;	5,798,785, Claim 37
said means for receiving subscriber specific data comprising a means for gathering subscriber responses to a plurality of selectable entries from the set top terminal;	a means for gathering subscriber responses to a plurality of selectable entries from the set top terminal;	5,798,785, Claim 37
a means, connected to the gathering means, for mapping the subscriber responses into the key words;	a means, connected to the gathering means, for mapping the subscriber responses into the key words;	5,798,785, Claim 37
a means, operably connected to the receiving means, storing means, gathering means and mapping means, for suggesting	a means, operably connected to the receiving means, storing means, gathering means and mapping means, for	5,798,785, Claim 37

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one or more programs, comprising:	suggesting one or more programs, comprising:	
said selecting means comprising means, connected to the storing and mapping means, for searching the program abstract data base for one or more key words; and	a means, connected to the storing and mapping means, for searching the program abstract data base for one or more key words; and	5,798,785, Claim 37
a means for distributing the suggested programs to the set top terminal.	a means for distributing the suggested programs to the set top terminal.	5,798,785, Claim 37
92. A method, comprising the steps of:	Generic	5,798,785, Claim 11
receiving subscriber specific data;		
receiving program control information; and		
selecting one or more programs using the user subscriber specific information and the program control information.		
93. The method of claim 92, used by a set top terminal for a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers for display on a television using program control information and subscriber specific data, the method further comprising:	11. A method used by a set top terminal for a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers for display on a television using program control information and subscriber specific data, the method comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 11
said receiving subscriber specific data comprising gathering subscriber specific data to be used in selecting programs;	gathering subscriber specific data to be used in selecting programs;	5,798,785, Claim 11
storing the gathered subscriber specific data;	storing the gathered subscriber specific data;	5,798,785, Claim 11
said receiving program control information comprising receiving program control information to be used in selecting programs;	receiving program control information to be used in selecting programs;	5,798,785, Claim 11
said selecting step comprising selecting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the received program control information, wherein the subscriber programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data; and	selecting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the received program control information, wherein the subscriber programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data; and	5,798,785, Claim 11
suggesting the selected programs to the subscriber.	suggesting the selected programs to the subscriber.	5,798,785, Claim 11

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94. The method of claim 93, wherein a display is used and wherein the set top terminal generates menus based on menu details received over the program television delivery system further comprising the following steps:	12. The method of claim 11 wherein a display is used and wherein the set top terminal generates menus based on menu details received over the program television delivery system further comprising the following steps:	5,798,785, Claim 12
storing the received menu details;	storing the received menu details;	5,798,785, Claim 12
generating menu screens using the stored menu details by integrating the received program control information with the stored menu details;	generating menu screens using the stored menu details by integrating the received program control information with the stored menu details;	5,798,785, Claim 12
displaying menu screens whereby the menu screens identify the selected programs; and	displaying menu screens whereby the menu screens identify the selected programs; and	5,798,785, Claim 12
receiving subscriber responses to the displayed menu screens.	receiving subscriber responses to the displayed menu screens.	5,798,785, Claim 12
95. The method of claim 92, used by a set top terminal for a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers for display on a television using program control information and subscriber specific data indicative of a subscriber's programming preferences, wherein the set top terminal generates menus based on menu details received over the program television delivery system, the method comprising the following steps:	13. A method used by a set top terminal for a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers for display on a television using program control information and subscriber specific data indicative of a subscriber's programming preferences, wherein the set top terminal generates menus based on menu details received over the program television delivery system, the method comprising the following steps:	5,798,785, Claim 13
storing the received menu details;	storing the received menu details;	5,798,785, Claim 13
said receiving subscriber specific data comprising gathering subscriber specific data indicative of subscriber preferences to be used in selecting programs;	gathering subscriber specific data indicative of subscriber preferences to be used in selecting programs;	5,798,785, Claim 13

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storing the gathered subscriber specific data;	storing the gathered subscriber specific data;	5,798,785, Claim 13
said receiving program control information comprising receiving program control information to be used in selecting programs;	receiving program control information to be used in selecting programs;	5,798,785, Claim 13
said selecting step comprising selecting one or more programs using the stored subscriber specific data and received program control information wherein the selected programs correspond to the subscriber's programming preferences;	selecting one or more programs using the stored subscriber specific data and received program control information wherein the selected programs correspond to the subscriber's programming preferences;	5,798,785, Claim 13
generating menu screens using the stored menu details by integrating the received program control information and the stored menu details;	generating menu screens using the stored menu details by integrating the received program control information and the stored menu details;	5,798,785, Claim 13
displaying menu screens whereby the menu screens identify the selected programs and suggest the selected programs to the subscriber; and	displaying menu screens whereby the menu screens identify the selected programs and suggest the selected programs to the subscriber; and	5,798,785, Claim 13
receiving subscriber responses to the menu screens.	receiving subscriber responses to the menu screens.	5,798,785, Claim 13
96. The method of claim 92, used by a set top terminal for a television program delivery system for suggesting programming to subscribers using program control information containing menu screen details by searching program abstracts for programs which correlate to key words mapped from one or more subscriber responses to search criteria containing a plurality of selectable entries on one or more menu screens displayed on a television, comprising the steps of:	21. A method used by a set top terminal for a television program delivery system for suggesting programming to subscribers using program control information containing menu screen details by searching program abstracts for programs which correlate to key words mapped from one or more subscriber responses to search criteria containing a plurality of selectable entries on one or more menu screens displayed on a television, comprising the steps of: receiving the program control information;	5,798,785, Claim 21
storing the program abstracts in a database;	storing the program abstracts in a database;	5,798,785, Claim 21
storing menu screen details;	storing menu screen details;	5,798,785, Claim 21
generating the menu screens wherein the	generating the menu screens wherein the	5,798,785,

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menu screens are generated by integrating the program control information with the stored menu screen details, and wherein the generated menu screens list the search criteria containing the plurality of selectable entries;	menu screens are generated by integrating the program control information with the stored menu screen details, and wherein the generated menu screens list the search criteria containing the plurality of selectable entries;	Claim 21
displaying the menu screens;	displaying the menu screens;	5,798,785, Claim 21
said receiving subscriber specific data comprising gathering subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries on the menu screens;	gathering subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries on the menu screens;	5,798,785, Claim 21
mapping the subscriber responses into the key words;	mapping the subscriber responses into the key words;	5,798,785, Claim 21
searching the stored program abstracts for abstracts comprising one or more of the key words;	searching the stored program abstracts for abstracts comprising one or more of the key words;	5,798,785, Claim 21
said selecting step comprising selecting one or more of the programs, whereby the programs are selected using the search of the stored program abstracts; and	selecting one or more of the programs, whereby the programs are selected using the search of the stored program abstracts; and	5,798,785, Claim 21
suggesting the selected programs.	suggesting the selected programs.	5,798,785, Claim 21
97. The method of claim 92, used in a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers for display on a television using program control information and subscriber specific data, the method further comprising:	43. A method used in a television program delivery system for suggesting programs to subscribers for display on a television using program control information and subscriber specific data, the method comprising:	5,798,785, Claim 43
said receiving subscriber specific data comprising gathering subscriber specific data to be used in selecting programs;	gathering subscriber specific data to be used in selecting programs;	5,798,785, Claim 43
storing the gathered subscriber specific data;	storing the gathered subscriber specific data;	5,798,785, Claim 43
said receiving program control information comprising receiving program control information to be used in selecting programs; and	receiving program control information to be used in selecting programs;	5,798,785, Claim 43
said selecting step comprising selecting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the received program control information,	selecting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the received program control information, wherein the subscriber	5,798,785, Claim 43

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wherein the subscriber programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data; and suggesting the selected programs to the subscriber.	programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data; and suggesting the selected programs to the subscriber.	
98. The method of claim 92, used in a television program delivery system for suggesting programming to subscribers using program control information containing menu screen details by searching program abstracts for programs which correlate to key words mapped from one or more subscriber responses to search criteria containing a plurality of selectable entries on one or more menu screens displayed on a television, comprising the steps of:	44. A method used in a television program delivery system for suggesting programming to subscribers using program control information containing menu screen details by searching program abstracts for programs which correlate to key words mapped from one or more subscriber responses to search criteria containing a plurality of selectable entries on one or more menu screens displayed on a television, comprising the steps of: receiving the program control information;	5,798,785, Claim 44
storing the program abstracts in a database;	storing the program abstracts in a database;	5,798,785, Claim 44
storing the menu screen details;	storing the menu screen details;	5,798,785, Claim 44
generating the menu screens wherein the menu screens are generated by integrating the received program control information with the stored menu screen details, and wherein the generated menu screens list the search criteria containing the plurality of selectable entries;	generating the menu screens wherein the menu screens are generated by integrating the received program control information with the stored menu screen details, and wherein the generated menu screens list the search criteria containing the plurality of selectable entries;	5,798,785, Claim 44
displaying the menu screens;	displaying the menu screens;	5,798,785, Claim 44
said receiving subscriber specific data comprising gathering subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries on the menu screens;	gathering subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries on the menu screens;	5,798,785, Claim 44
mapping the gathered subscriber responses into the key words;	mapping the gathered subscriber responses into the key words;	5,798,785, Claim 44
searching the stored program abstracts for abstracts comprising one or more of the key words;	searching the stored program abstracts for abstracts comprising one or more of the key words;	5,798,785, Claim 44
said selecting step comprising selecting one or more of the programs, whereby the	selecting one or more of the programs, whereby the programs are selected using	5,798,785, Claim 44

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programs are selected using the search of the stored program abstracts; and	the search of the stored program abstracts; and	
suggesting the selected programs.	suggesting the selected programs.	5,798,785, Claim 44
99. The method of claim 92, used in a television program delivery system for suggesting programming to subscribers using program control information and by searching program abstracts for programs which correlate to key words mapped from one or more subscriber responses to a plurality of presented selectable entries, comprising the steps of:	45. A method used in a television program delivery system for suggesting programming to subscribers using program control information and by searching program abstracts for programs which correlate to key words mapped from one or more subscriber responses to a plurality of presented selectable entries, comprising the steps of: receiving the program control information;	5,798,785, Claim 46
storing the program abstracts in a database;	storing the program abstracts in a database;	5,798,785, Claim 46
presenting the plurality of selectable entries;	presenting the plurality of selectable entries;	5,798,785, Claim 46
said receiving subscriber specific data comprising gathering subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries;	gathering subscriber responses to the plurality of selectable entries;	5,798,785, Claim 46
mapping the gathered subscriber responses into the key words;	mapping the gathered subscriber responses into the key words;	5,798,785, Claim 46
searching the stored program abstracts for abstracts comprising one or more of the key words;	searching the stored program abstracts for abstracts comprising one or more of the key words;	5,798,785, Claim 46
said selecting step comprising selecting one or more of the programs, whereby the programs are selected using the search of the stored program abstracts; and	selecting one or more of the programs, whereby the programs are selected using the search of the stored program abstracts; and	5,798,785, Claim 46
suggesting the selected programs.	suggesting the selected programs.	5,798,785, Claim 46
100. The method of claim 92, for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data, the method comprising:	53. A method for suggesting programs to subscribers using program control information containing program description data, and subscriber specific data, the method comprising: ... receiving the program control	5,798,785, Claim 53

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	information; and	
said receiving subscriber specific data comprising gathering the subscriber specific data to be used in selecting programs;	gathering the subscriber specific data to be used in selecting programs;	5,798,785, Claim 53
storing the subscriber specific data;	storing the subscriber specific data;	5,798,785, Claim 53
said selecting step comprising selecting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the program control information, wherein the subscriber's programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data.	selecting one or more programs using a subscriber's programming preferences and the program control information, wherein the subscriber's programming preferences are generated from the subscriber specific data.	5,798,785, Claim 53
101. A method for controlling rendering of a signal having a plurality of channels, said method comprising:	24. A method for controlling rendering of a signal having a plurality of channels, said method comprising:	5,867,205, Claim 24
(a) analyzing textual information decoded from a signal having a plurality of channels to determine whether channel contents of said channels are among channel contents defined by selection data; and	(a) analyzing textual information decoded from a signal having a plurality of channels to determine whether channel contents of said channels are among channel contents defined by selection data; and	5,867,205, Claim 24
(b) arbitrating display and/or record resource contentions among said analyzed channels having channel contents defined by said selection data.	(b) arbitrating display and/or record resource contentions among said analyzed channels having channel contents defined by said selection data.	5,867,205, Claim 24
102. The method of claim 101, wherein said analyzing step comprises:		
tuning to said channels to receive said channels, and decoding textual information included with said channels; and	25. The method of claim 24 wherein (a) includes tuning to said channels to receive said channels, and decoding textual information included with said channels.	5,867,205, Claim 25
pre-defining said selection data employed in said analyzing step.	26. The method of claim 24 wherein (a) includes pre-defining said selection data	5,867,205, Claim 26

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	employed in said analyzing step.	
103. An apparatus for performing the method of claim 101, comprising:	1. An apparatus for controlling selective display and/or recording of selected ones of a plurality of channels of a communication signal, the apparatus comprising:	5,867,205, Claim 1
(a) one or more analyzing units for receiving textual information indicative of channel contents of said channels decoded from a communication signal, and responsive thereto, analyzing said received textual information to determine if channel contents of said channels are among channel contents defined by selection data; and	(a) one or more analyzing units for receiving textual information indicative of channel contents of said channels decoded from said communication signal, and responsive thereto, analyzing said received textual information to determine if channel contents of said channels are among channel contents defined by selection data; and	5,867,205, Claim 1
(b) an arbitrating unit coupled to said one or more analyzing units to arbitrate display and/or record resource contentions among said analyzing units determining said channels having channel contents that are defined by said selection data.	(b) an arbitrating unit coupled to said one or more analyzing units to arbitrate display and/or record resource contentions among said analyzing units determining said channels having channel contents that are defined by said selection data.	5,867,205, Claim 1
104. The apparatus of claim 103, for controlling selective display and/or recording of selected ones of a plurality of channels of a communication signal, wherein:		5,867,205, Claim 2
said arbitrating unit includes an arbitration logic routine for arbitrating said display and/or record resource contentions, in accordance with predefined priority information of said selection data,	2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said arbitrating unit includes an arbitration logic routine for arbitrating said display and/or record resource contentions, in accordance with predefined priority information of said selection data.	5,867,205, Claim 2
the apparatus further comprising		
one or more decoding units coupled to said one or more analyzing units for providing said textual information of said channels to said analyzing units, said one or more decoding units receiving said channels of said communication signal, and in response decoding said channels for textual information included in said	3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the apparatus further includes one or more decoding units coupled to said one or more analyzing units for providing said textual information of said channels to said analyzing units, said one or more decoding units receiving said channels of said communication signal, and in	5,867,205, Claim 3

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channels;	response decoding said channels for textual information included in said channels.	
one or more signal tuning units coupled to said one or more decoding units for providing said one or more decoding units with said channels, by tuning to said channels of said communication signal; and	4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the apparatus further includes one or more signal tuning units coupled to said one or more decoding units for providing said one or more decoding units with said channels, by tuning to said channels of said communication signal.	5,867,205, Claim 4
one or more buffers coupled to said one or more tuning units for storing portions of the contents of said channels of said communication signal for a predetermined duration of time.	5. The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising one or more buffers coupled to said one or more tuning units for storing portions of the contents of said channels of said communication signal for a predetermined duration of time.	5,867,205, Claim 5
105. The apparatus of claim 103, wherein:		
the contents of said channels include audio/video contents, and said selection data include predefined priority of said audio/video contents;	6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the contents of said channels include audio/video contents, and said selection data include predefined priority of said audio/video contents.	5,867,205, Claim 6
said selection data include predefined keywords and priorities of selected ones of said channels;	7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said selection data include predefined keywords and priorities of selected ones of said channels.	5,867,205, Claim 7
said arbitrating unit automatically causes a display window for displaying the channel contents of a successful one of said arbitrating channels to be activated, amplification of audio signals associated with the activated display window to be adjusted, and/or channel contents of said successful one of said arbitrating channels to be recorded; and	8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said arbitrating unit automatically causes a display window for displaying the channel contents of a successful one of said arbitrating channels to be activated, amplification of audio signals associated with the activated display window to be adjusted, and/or channel contents of said successful one of said arbitrating channels to be recorded.	5,867,205, Claim 8
the apparatus further comprises		
a profile unit coupled to said one or more analyzing units for providing said one or more analyzing units with said selection data; and	9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus further includes a profile unit coupled to said one or more analyzing units for providing said one or more analyzing units with said selection data.	5,867,205, Claim 9
one or more recorders for recording	18. The computer system of claim 11	5,867,205,

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channel contents of successful ones of said arbitrating channels; and	further comprising one or more recorders for recording channel contents of successful ones of said arbitrating channels.	Claim 18
one more decoders coupled to said one or more analyzers for providing said textual information of said channels to said one or more analyzers, said one or more decoders receiving said channels of said signal, and in response decoding said channels for textual information included in said channels.	19. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the computer system further includes one more decoders coupled to said one or more analyzers for providing said textual information of said channels to said one or more analyzers, said one or more decoders receiving said channels of said signal, and in response decoding said channels for textual information included in said channels.	5,867,205, Claim 19
106. The apparatus of claim 103, being a computer system having a bus for communicating information, and a signal processing unit coupled to said bus for processing a signal having a plurality of channels.	11. A computer system having a bus for communicating information, and a signal processing unit coupled to said bus for processing a signal having a plurality of channels, said signal processing unit comprising:	5,867,205, Claim 11 (part)
107. The apparatus of claim 103, being a communication network system, further comprising:	21. A communication network system comprising:	5,867,205, Claim 21
(a) a communication network interface to communicate in said communication network system;	(a) a communication network interface to communicate in said communication network system;	5,867,205, Claim 21
(b) a communication network server coupled to said communication network interface to receive a signal having a plurality of channels; said communication network server to generate a stream of decoded texts indicative of channel contents of said channels, responsive to said channels;	(b) a communication network server coupled to said communication network interface to receive a signal having a plurality of channels; said communication network server to generate a stream of decoded texts indicative of channel contents of said channels, responsive to said channels; and	5,867,205, Claim 21
said communication network server comprising:	22. The communication network system of claim 17 wherein said communication network server comprises:	5,867,205, Claim 22
(b.1) one or more tuners to tune to said channels;	(b.1) one or more tuners to tune to said channels;	5,867,205, Claim 22
(b.2) one or more decoders coupled to said one or more tuners to receive said	(b.2) one or more decoders coupled to said one or more tuners to receive said	5,867,205, Claim 22

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channels, and to generate said decoded texts indicative of channel contents of said channels;	channels, and to generate said decoded texts indicative of channel contents of said channels;	
(b.3) one or more buffers coupled to said one or more tuners to temporarily store portions of the channel contents of said channels for a predetermined duration of time; and	(b.3) one or more buffers coupled to said one or more tuners to temporarily store portions of the channel contents of said channels for a predetermined duration of time; and	5,867,205, Claim 22
(b.4) a server interface coupled to said buffers and said decoders to couple said communication network server to said communication network interface; and	(b.4) a server interface coupled to said buffers and said decoders to couple said communication network server to said communication network interface.	5,867,205, Claim 22
(c) a client computer system coupled to said communication network interface to receive said channels and said decoded texts from said network server, encompassing said analyzing units and said arbitrating unit, to analyze said received decoded texts to determine if channel contents of said channels are among channel contents defined by selection data, and to arbitrate display and/or record resource contentions among analyzed channels with channel contents that are defined by the selection data,	(c) a client computer system coupled to said communication network interface to receive said channels and said decoded texts from said network server, to analyze said received decoded texts to determine if channel contents of said channels are among channel contents defined by selection data, and to arbitrate display and/or record resource contentions among analyzed channels with channel contents that are defined by the selection data.	5,867,205, Claim 21
said client computer system comprising:	23. The communication network system of claim 21 wherein said client computer system comprises:	5,867,205, Claim 23
(c.1) an analyzer coupled to said communication network interface to perform said analysis; and	(c.1) an analyzer coupled to said communication network interface to perform said analysis; and	5,867,205, Claim 23
(c.2) an arbitration unit coupled to said analyzer to perform said arbitration.	(c.2) an arbitration unit coupled to said analyzer to perform said arbitration.	5,867,205, Claim 23
108. A method of classifying a pattern, said method comprising the steps of:	1. A method of classifying a pattern, said method comprising the steps of:	5,867,118, Claim 1
acquiring a signal, said signal including an input pattern to be classified;	acquiring a signal, said signal including an input pattern to be classified;	5,867,118, Claim 1
sampling the acquired signal to produce an intermediate pattern based on said signal;	sampling the acquired signal to produce an intermediate pattern based on said signal;	5,867,118, Claim 1
performing a transform on at least a portion of said intermediate pattern, said transform being from the group consisting	performing a transform on at least a portion of said intermediate pattern, said transform being from the group	5,867,118, Claim 1

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of wavelet transforms and wavelet packet transforms, to produce a wavelet transformed pattern;	consisting of wavelet transforms and wavelet packet transforms, to produce a wavelet transformed pattern;	
selecting a reduced feature space from the wavelet transformed pattern; and	selecting a reduced feature space from the wavelet transformed pattern; and	5,867,118, Claim 1
classifying said input pattern on the basis of said reduced feature space.	classifying said input pattern on the basis of said reduced feature space.	5,867,118, Claim 1
109. The method as claimed in claim 108, wherein said step of classifying said pattern on the basis of said reduced feature space comprises the step of classifying a target on the basis of said selected reduced feature space.	10. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of classifying said pattern on the basis of said reduced feature space comprises the step of classifying a target on the basis of said selected reduced feature space.	5,867,118, Claim 10
110. An apparatus for performing the method of claim 104, comprising;	16. An apparatus for classifying a pattern, said apparatus comprising;	5,867,118, Claim 16
means for acquiring a signal, said signal including an input pattern to be classified;	means for acquiring a signal, said signal including an input pattern to be classified;	5,867,118, Claim 16
means for sampling the acquired signal to produce an intermediate pattern based on said signal;	means for sampling the acquired signal to produce an intermediate pattern based on said signal;	5,867,118, Claim 16
means for performing a transform on at least a portion of said intermediate pattern, said transform being from the group consisting of wavelet transforms and wavelet packet transforms to produce a wavelet transformed pattern;	means for performing a transform on at least a portion of said intermediate pattern, said transform being from the group consisting of wavelet transforms and wavelet packet transforms to produce a wavelet transformed pattern;	5,867,118, Claim 16
means for selecting a reduced feature space from the wavelet transformed pattern; and	means for selecting a reduced feature space from the wavelet transformed pattern; and	5,867,118, Claim 16
means for classifying said input pattern on the basis of said reduced feature space.	means for classifying said input pattern on the basis of said reduced feature space.	5,867,118, Claim 16
111. An apparatus as claimed in claim 110, wherein said means for performing a transform on at least a portion of the intermediate pattern comprises means for performing a wavelet transform on a selected subset of the intermediate pattern.	22. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said means for performing a transform on at least a portion of the intermediate pattern comprises means for performing a wavelet transform on a selected subset of the intermediate pattern.	5,867,118, Claim 22

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112. An apparatus as claimed in claim 110, wherein said means for classifying said pattern on the basis of said reduced feature space comprises means for classifying a target on the basis of said selected reduced feature space.	25. An apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said means for classifying said pattern on the basis of said reduced feature space comprises means for classifying a target on the basis of said selected reduced feature space.	5,867,118, Claim 25
113. An electronic programming guide operable to run on a computing platform that is associated with a television, the platform operable to access a program listing database containing program listing information for a plurality of television programs, the electronic programming guide comprising:	1. An electronic programming guide operable to run on a computing platform that is associated with a television, the platform operable to access a program listing database containing program listing information for a plurality of television programs, the electronic programming guide comprising:	6,163,118, Claim 1
a profile database operable to store a viewer profile; and	a profile database operable to store a viewer profile; and	6,163,118, Claim 1
a suggest module coupled to the profile database, the suggest module operable to access the viewer profile and the program listing information and, in response, to generate a preferred schedule according to the viewer profile and the program listing information, the preferred schedule operable to indicate the desirability of a particular program relative to other programs;	a suggest module coupled to the profile database, the suggest module operable to access the viewer profile and the program listing information and, in response, to generate a preferred schedule according to the viewer profile and the program listing information, the preferred schedule operable to indicate the desirability of a particular program relative to other programs;	6,163,118, Claim 1
the suggest module comprises a scoring algorithm operable to generate a preference score for the program according to the viewer profile and the program listing information;	the suggest module comprises a scoring algorithm operable to generate a preference score for the program according to the viewer profile and the program listing information;	6,163,118, Claim 1
the suggest module is further operable in response to viewer's requests for a channel change to select a channel for viewing according to the preference score for the program while bypassing channels that are not currently airing a program satisfying the preferences of the viewer in effect.	the suggest module is further operable in response to viewer's requests for a channel change to select a channel for viewing according to the preference score for the program while bypassing channels that are not currently airing a program satisfying the preferences of the viewer in effect.	6,163,118, Claim 1
114. A method performed on a computing platform that is associated with a television for providing functionality	2. A method performed on a computing platform that is associated with a television for providing functionality	6,163,118, Claim 2

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associated with an electronic programming guide, the method comprising:	associated with an electronic programming guide, the method comprising:	
storing a viewer profile in a profile database;	storing a viewer profile in a profile database;	6,163,118, Claim 2
accessing the viewer profile in the profile database and program listing information stored in a program listing database for a plurality of television programs;	accessing the viewer profile in the profile database and program listing information stored in a program listing database for a plurality of television program;	6,163,118, Claim 2
generating a preferred schedule in accordance with the viewer profile and the program listing information, the preferred schedule operable to indicate the desirability of a particular program relative to other programs;	generating a preferred schedule in accordance with the viewer profile and the program listing information, the preferred schedule operable to indicate the desirability of a particular program relative to other program;	6,163,118, Claim 2
generating a preference score for the program according to the viewer profile and the program listing information; and	generating a preference score for the program according to the viewer profile and the program listing information; and	6,163,118, Claim 2
selecting a channel in response to viewer's request for channel change for viewing channels according to the preference score for the program while bypassing channels that are not currently airing a program satisfying the preference of the viewer in effect.	selecting a channel in response to viewer's request for channel change for viewing channels according to the preference score for the program while bypassing channels that are not currently airing a program satisfying the preference of the viewer in effect.	6,163,118, Claim 2

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35. An apparatus, comprising:	Generic	5,724,567, Claim 1
means for storing a plurality of content records;		
means for accessing the content records;		
means for storing a persistent user-specific profile;		
means for relating content records with a stored user profile;		
means for presenting to the user the related content records;		
means for receiving a user feedback on said relation; and		
means for updating the user profile based on said the feedback.		
36. The apparatus according to claim 35,		
wherein said apparatus is an information access system for automatically presenting users with information items of interest;	1. An information access system for automatically presenting users with information items of interest, comprising:	5,724,567, claim 1
wherein said content records storing means comprises a computer system containing a database of information items available to be presented to users of the system;	a computer system containing a database of information items available to be presented to users of the system;	
wherein said accessing means comprises at least one access device for enabling users to communicate with the computer system and access any of the items of available information;	at least one access device for enabling users to communicate with the computer system and access any of the items of available information;	
wherein said user profile storing means stores a user profile for each user having access to the available items of information;	means for storing a user profile for each user having access to the available items of information;	
wherein said relating means comprises means for ranking a likely degree of interest for each of the available items of information in accordance with a user profile;	means for raking the likely degree of interest for each of the available items of information in accordance with a user profile;	

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wherein said presenting means presents the items of information to an access device in order of ranking and enabling a user to retrieve each item;	means for presenting the items of information to an access device in order of ranking and enabling a user to retrieve each item;	
wherein said feedback receiving means comprises means for enabling the user to indicate that user's interest in each retrieved item of information; and	means for enabling the user to indicate that user's interest in each retrieved item of information; and	
wherein said updating means comprises means for updating the user's profile in response to indications of interest provided by the user.	means for updating the user's profile in response to indications of interest provided by the user.	
37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said ranking means ranks the available items of information for a user on the basis of at least one attribute pertaining to each item of information.	2. The information access system of claim 1, wherein said ranking means ranks the available items of information for a user on the basis of at least one attribute pertaining to each item of information.	5,724,567, claim 2
38. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said attribute is the contents of the item of information.	3. The information access system of claim 2, wherein said attribute is the contents of the item of information.	5,724,567, claim 3
39. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said ranking means produces a formula which predicts the interest of a user in an item of information on the basis of at least one of a user profile and an attribute related to that item of information.	9. The information access system of claim 1, wherein said ranking means produces a formula which predicts the interest of a user in an item of information on the basis of at least one of a collection of votes of other users relating to that item of information, a user profile and an attribute related to that item of information.	5,724,567, claim 9
40. A method, comprising:	Generic	5,724,567, claim 23
storing a plurality of content records;		
storing a persistent user-specific profile;		
receiving a user request for content records;		
relating content records with a stored user profile; and		
presenting to the user the related content records.		

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41. The method according to claim 40, for providing information to users of a computer system, wherein:	23. A method for providing information to users of a computer system, comprising the steps of:	5,724,567, claim 23
said content record storing step comprises storing items of information in an unstructured database within the computer system;	storing items of information in an unstructured database within the computer system;	
said user profile storing step comprises determining and storing user profiles for users of the computer system who have access to the items of information;	determining and storing user profiles for users of the computer system who have access to the items of information;	
said receiving a request step comprises receiving a request from a user for access to the stored information;	receiving a request from a user for access to the stored information;	
said relating step comprises determining a user's likely degree of interest in items of information stored in said database, in accordance with that user's profile, and ranking the items of information in accordance with their determined degrees of interest; and	determining the user's likely degree of interest in items of information stored in said database, in accordance with that user's profile, and ranking the items of information in accordance with their determined degrees of interest; and	
said presenting step comprises displaying the items of information with an indication of their relative rankings.	displaying the items of information with an indication of their relative rankings.	
42. The method of claim 41, wherein said items of information are displayed in order of their ranking.	24. The method of claim 23 wherein said items of information are displayed in order of their ranking.	5,724,567, claim 24
43. The method of claim 41, wherein the user profiles and the determined degree of interest in items of information are based upon at least one attribute associated with each item of information.	25. The method of claim 23 wherein the user profiles and the determined degree of interest in items of information are based upon at least one attribute associated with each item of information.	5,724,567, claim 25
44. The method of claim 43, wherein said attribute is the content of the item of information.	26. The method of claim 25 wherein said attribute is the content of the item of information.	5,724,567, claim 26
45. The method of claim 41, further including the steps of selecting an item of information from those which are	27. The method of claim 23 further including the steps of selecting an item of information from those which are	5,724,567, claim 27

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displayed, providing an indication of the user's actual interest in the selected item of information, and storing the user's indicated interest.	displayed, providing an indication of the user's actual interest in the selected item of information, and storing the user's indicated interest.	
46. The method of claim 41, wherein the likely degree of interest is determined for all of the items of information stored in said database in response to receipt of a user's request for access.	33. The method of claim 23 wherein the likely degree of interest is determined for all of the items of information stored in said database in response to receipt of a user's request for access.	5,724,567, claim 33
47. A method, comprising the steps of:	Generic	5,754,939, Claim 1
automatically generating a user-specific profile representing an interest summary based on a history of access to objects; and		
persistently storing the user profile in memory.		
48. The method of claim 47, for providing a user with access to selected ones of a plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics that are accessible via an electronic storage media, where said user is connected via user terminals and data communication connections to a target server system which accesses said electronic storage media, wherein:	1. A method for providing a user with access to selected ones of a plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics that are accessible via an electronic storage media, where said users are connected via user terminals and data communication connections to a target server system which accesses said electronic storage media, said method comprising the steps of:	5,754,939, Claim 1
said automatically generating step generates at least one user target profile interest summary for a user at a user terminal, each of said user target profile interest summary being indicative of ones of said target objects and sets of target object characteristics accessed by said user; and	automatically generating at least one user target profile interest summary for a user at a user terminal, each of said user target profile interest summary being indicative of ones of said target objects and sets of target object characteristics accessed by said user; and	
said storing step stores said at least one user target profile interest summary in a memory.	storing said at least one user target profile interest summary in a memory.	
49. The method of claim 48, further comprising the steps of:		5,754,939

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enabling said user to access said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics stored on said electronic storage media via said user target profile interest summaries;	2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: enabling said user to access said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics stored on said electronic storage media via said user target profile interest summaries.	5,754,939, Claim 2
said step of enabling access comprising:	3. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of enabling access comprises:	5,754,939, Claim 3
correlating said user target profile interest summaries, generated for said user, with target profiles generated for said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics to identify ones of said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics stored on said electronic storage media that are likely to be of interest to said user;	correlating said user target profile interest summaries, generated for said user, with target profiles generated for said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics to identify ones of said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics stored on said electronic storage media that are likely to be of interest to said user.	5,754,939, Claim 3
transmitting a list, that identifies at least one of said identified ones of said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics, to said user; and	4. The method of claim 3 wherein said step of enabling access further comprises: transmitting a list, that identifies at least one of said identified ones of said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics, to said user; and	5,754,939, Claim 4
providing access to a selected one of said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics stored on said electronic storage media in response to said user selecting an item from said list;	providing access to a selected one of said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics stored on said electronic storage media in response to said user selecting an item from said list.	5,754,939, Claim 4
said step of providing access further comprising:	5. The method of claim 4 wherein said step of providing access comprises:	5,754,939, Claim 5
transmitting data, in response to said user activating said user terminal to identify said selected item on said list, indicative of said user's selection of said selected item from said user terminal to said target server via a one of said data communication connections;	transmitting data, in response to said user activating said user terminal to identify said selected item on said list, indicative of said user's selection of said selected item from said user terminal to said target server via a one of said data communication connections.	5,754,939, Claim 5
retrieving, in response to receipt of said data from said user terminal, a one of a target object and set of target object	6. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of providing access further comprises: retrieving, in response to	5,754,939, Claim 6

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characteristics identified by said selected item from said electronic storage media; and	receipt of said data from said user terminal, a one of a target object and set of target object characteristics identified by said selected item from said electronic storage media; and	
transmitting said retrieved one of said target object and set of target object characteristics to said user terminal for display thereon to said user,	transmitting said retrieved one of said target object and set of target object characteristics to said user terminal for display thereon to said user.	5,754,939, Claim 6
said step of automatically generating comprising:	7. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of automatically generating comprises:	5,754,939, Claim 7
automatically updating said user target profile interest summary for said user as a function of said target objects and sets of target object characteristics retrieved by said user.	automatically updating said user target profile interest summary for said user as a function of said target objects and sets of target object characteristics retrieved by said user.	5,754,939, Claim 7
50. The method of claim 48, wherein said automatically generating step comprises:	17. A method of scheduling customer access to data from a plurality of data sources, comprising the steps of:	5,758,257, Claim 17 (see also claims 1 and 18)
creating a customer profile, said customer profile indicating a respective customer's preferences for data;	creating at least one customer profile for each eligible recipient of said data, said customer profile indicating the customer's preferences for data having predetermined characteristics;	5,758,257, Claim 17
	creating content profiles for each data source of said data, said content profiles indicating the degree of content of said predetermined characteristics in data from each data source;	5,758,257, Claim 17
monitoring a history of data objects accessed by the customer; and	monitoring which data sources are actually accessed by each recipient; and	5,758,257, Claim 17
automatically updating the customer profile in accordance with the content profiles accessed by the customer to automatically update the customer profile to represent the customer's preferences.	updating, without input from each customer, each customer profile in accordance with the content profiles of the data sources actually accessed by that customer to automatically update each customer's actual preferences for said predetermined characteristics.	5,758,257, Claim 17
51. The method of claim 47, wherein said method is for scheduling customer	17. A method of scheduling customer access to data from a plurality of data	5,754,939, Claim 17

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access to data from a plurality of data sources,	sources, comprising the steps of:	
further comprising the steps of:		
creating content profiles for each data source of said data, said content profiles indicating a degree of content of predetermined characteristics in data from each data source;	creating content profiles for each data source of said data, said content profiles indicating the degree of content of said predetermined characteristics in data from each data source;	5,758,257, Claim 17
said generating step comprises creating at least one customer profile for each eligible recipient of said data, said customer profile indicating a customer's preferences for data having predetermined characteristics;	creating at least one customer profile for each eligible recipient of said data, said customer profile indicating the customer's preferences for data having predetermined characteristics;	5,758,257, Claim 17
monitoring which data sources are actually accessed by each recipient; and	monitoring which data sources are actually accessed by each recipient; and	5,758,257, Claim 17
updating, without input from each customer, each customer profile in accordance with the content profiles of the data sources actually accessed by that customer to automatically update each customer's actual preferences for said predetermined characteristics.	updating, without input from each customer, each customer profile in accordance with the content profiles of the data sources actually accessed by that customer to automatically update each customer's actual preferences for said predetermined characteristics.	5,758,257, Claim 17
52. The method of claim 47, wherein said method is for scheduling customer access to video programs,	18. A method of scheduling customer access to video programs, comprising the steps of:	5,754,939, Claim 18
further comprising the steps of:		
creating content profiles for each video program available for viewing, said content profiles indicating a degree of content of predetermined characteristics in each video program;	creating content profiles for each video program available for viewing, said content profiles indicating the degree of content of said predetermined characteristics in each video program;	5,754,939, Claim 18
creating at least one customer profile for each customer of said video programs, said customer profile indicating a customer's preferences for predetermined characteristics of the video programs;	creating at least one customer profile for each customer of said video programs, said customer profile indicating the customer's preferences for predetermined characteristics of the video programs;	5,754,939, Claim 18
monitoring which video programs are actually viewed by each customer; and	monitoring which video programs are actually viewed by each customer; and	5,754,939, Claim 18
updating, without input from each customer, each customer profile in accordance with the content profiles of the video programs actually viewed by	updating, without input from each customer, each customer profile in accordance with the content profiles of the video programs actually viewed by	5,754,939, Claim 18

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that customer to automatically update each customer's actual preferences for said predetermined characteristics.	that customer to automatically update each customer's actual preferences for said predetermined characteristics.	
53. The method of claim 52, comprising the further steps of receiving customer identity information and determining from said customer identity information which customer profile to update in said updating step.	21. A method as in claim 18, comprising the further steps of receiving customer identity information and determining from said customer identity information which customer profile to update in said updating step.	5,754,939, Claim 21
54. The method of claim 47, wherein said method is for scheduling customer access to data from a plurality of data sources, further comprising the steps of:	41. A method of scheduling customer access to data from a plurality of data sources, comprising the steps of:	5,754,939, Claim 41
creating a customer profile for each customer of said plurality of data sources, said customer profile indicating a customer's preferences for predetermined characteristics of the data sources;	creating a customer profile for each customer of said plurality of data sources, said customer profile indicating said customer's preferences for predetermined characteristics of the data sources;	5,754,939, Claim 41
monitoring which data sources are actually accessed by each customer; and	monitoring which data sources are actually accessed by each customer; and	5,754,939, Claim 41
updating each customer profile to reflect a frequency of selection of the data sources by customers with customer profiles substantially similar to said each customer profile.	updating each customer profile to reflect the frequency of selection of the data sources by customers with customer profiles substantially similar to said each customer profile.	5,754,939, Claim 41
55. An apparatus, comprising:	12. Apparatus for providing a user with access to selected ones of a plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics that are accessible via an electronic storage media, where said users are connected via user terminals and data communication connections to a target server system which accesses said electronic storage media, comprising:	5,754,939, Claim 12
means for automatically generating a user-specific profile representing an interest summary based on a history of access to objects; and	means for automatically generating at least one user target profile interest summary for a user at a user terminal, each of said user target profile interest	5,754,939, Claim 12

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	summaries being indicative of ones of said target objects and sets of target object characteristics accessed by said user; and	
a memory for persistently storing the user profile.	means for storing said at least one user target profile interest summary in a memory.	5,754,939, Claim 12
56. The apparatus according to claim 55, for providing a user with access to selected ones of a plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics that are accessible via an electronic storage media, where said user is connected via user terminals and data communication connections to a target server system which accesses said electronic storage media, comprising:	12. Apparatus for providing a user with access to selected ones of a plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics that are accessible via an electronic storage media, where said users are connected via user terminals and data communication connections to a target server system which accesses said electronic storage media, comprising:	5,754,939, Claim 12
means for automatically generating at least one user target profile interest summary for a user at a user terminal, each of said user target profile interest summaries being indicative of ones of said target objects and sets of target object characteristics accessed by said user; and	means for automatically generating at least one user target profile interest summary for a user at a user terminal, each of said user target profile interest summaries being indicative of ones of said target objects and sets of target object characteristics accessed by said user; and	5,754,939, Claim 12
means for storing said at least one user target profile interest summary in a memory.	means for storing said at least one user target profile interest summary in a memory.	5,754,939, Claim 12
57. The apparatus of claim 56, further comprising:		
means for enabling said user to access said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics stored on said electronic storage media via said user target profile interest summaries;	13. The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising: means for enabling said user to access said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics stored on said electronic storage media via said user target profile interest summaries.	5,754,939, Claim 13
said means for enabling access comprising:	14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said means for enabling access comprises:	5,754,939, Claim 14
means for correlating said user target profile interest summaries, generated	means for correlating said user target profile interest summaries, generated	5,754,939, Claim 14

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for said user, with target profiles generated for said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics to identify ones of said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics stored on said electronic storage media that are likely to be of interest to said user;	for said user, with target profiles generated for said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics to identify ones of said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics stored on said electronic storage media that are likely to be of interest to said user.	
means for transmitting a list, that identifies at least one of said identified ones of said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics, to said user; and	15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said means for enabling access further comprises: means for transmitting a list, that identifies at least one of said identified ones of said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics, to said user; and	5,754,939, Claim 15
means for providing access to a selected one of said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics stored on said electronic storage media in response to said user selecting an item from said list.	means for providing access to a selected one of said plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics stored on said electronic storage media in response to said user selecting an item from said list.	5,754,939, Claim 15
said means for providing access comprising:	16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said means for providing access comprises:	5,754,939, Claim 16
means for transmitting data, in response to said user activating said user terminal to identify said selected item on said list, indicative of said user's selection of said selected item from said user terminal to said target server via a one of said data communication connections;	means for transmitting data, in response to said user activating said user terminal to identify said selected item on said list, indicative of said user's selection of said selected item from said user terminal to said target server via a one of said data communication connections.	5,754,939, Claim 16
means for retrieving, in response to receipt of said data from said user terminal, a target object identified by said selected item from said electronic storage media; and	17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said means for providing access further comprises: means for retrieving, in response to receipt of said data from said user terminal, a target object identified by said selected item from said electronic storage media; and	5,754,939, Claim 17
means for transmitting said retrieved target object to said user terminal for display thereon to said user;	means for transmitting said retrieved target object to said user terminal for display thereon to said user.	5,754,939, Claim 17
said means for automatically generating comprising:	18. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said means for automatically generating comprises:	5,754,939, Claim 18

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means for automatically updating said user target profile interest summary for said user as a function of said target objects and sets of target object characteristics retrieved by said user.	means for automatically updating said user target profile interest summary for said user as a function of said target objects and sets of target object characteristics retrieved by said user.	5,754,939, Claim 18
58. A system, comprising:	12. Apparatus for providing a user with access to selected ones of a plurality of target objects and sets of target object characteristics that are accessible via an electronic storage media, where said users are connected via user terminals and data communication connections to a target server system which accesses said electronic storage media, comprising:	5,754,939, claim 12
a persistent customer profile, said customer profile indicating a respective customer's preferences for data;	means for storing said at least one user target profile interest summary in a memory.	5,754,939, Claim 12
means for monitoring a history of data objects accessed by the customer; and	means for automatically generating at least one user target profile interest summary for a user at a user terminal, each of said user target profile interest summaries being indicative of ones of said target objects and sets of target object characteristics accessed by said user; and	5,754,939, Claim 12
means for automatically updating the customer profile in accordance with content profiles accessed by the customer to automatically update the customer profile to represent the customer's preferences.	18. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said means for automatically generating comprises: means for automatically updating said user target profile interest summary for said user as a function of said target objects and sets of target object characteristics retrieved by said user.	5,754,939, Claim 18
59. The system according to claim 58, for scheduling customer access to data from a plurality of data sources, further comprising:	62. A system for scheduling customer access to data from a plurality of data sources, comprising:	5,758,257, Claim 62
content profiles for each data source of said data, said content profiles indicating a degree of content of predetermined characteristics in data from each data source;	content profiles for each data source of said data, said content profiles indicating the degree of content of said predetermined characteristics in data from each data source;	5,758,257, Claim 62

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wherein:		
at least one customer profile for each eligible recipient of said data is provided, said customer profile indicating the customer's preferences for data having predetermined characteristics;	at least one customer profile for each eligible recipient of said data, said customer profile indicating the customer's preferences for data having predetermined characteristics;	5,758,257, Claim 62
said monitoring means monitors which data sources are actually accessed by each recipient; and	means for monitoring which data sources are actually accessed by each recipient; and	5,758,257, Claim 62
said updating means updates, without input from each customer, each customer profile in accordance with the content profiles of the data sources actually accessed by that customer to automatically update each customer's actual preferences for said predetermined characteristics.	means for updating, without input from each customer, each customer profile in accordance with the content profiles of the data sources actually accessed by that customer to automatically update each customer's actual preferences for said predetermined characteristics.	5,758,257, Claim 62
60. The system according to claim 58, for scheduling customer access to video programs received from a video head end, further comprising:	63. A system for scheduling customer access to video programs received from a video head end, comprising:	5,758,257, Claim 63
content profiles for each video program available for viewing, said content profiles indicating a degree of content for predetermined characteristics in each video program;	content profiles for each video program available for viewing, said content profiles indicating the degree of content of said predetermined characteristics in each video program;	5,758,257, Claim 63
wherein:		
at least one customer profile for each customer of said video programs is provided, said customer profile indicating the customer's preferences for predetermined characteristics of the video programs;	at least one customer profile for each customer of said video programs, said customer profile indicating the customer's preferences for predetermined characteristics of the video programs;	5,758,257, Claim 63
said means for monitoring monitors which video programs are actually viewed by each customer; and	means for monitoring which video programs are actually viewed by each customer; and	5,758,257, Claim 63
said means for updating updates, without input from each customer, each customer profile in accordance with the content profiles of the video programs actually viewed by that customer to automatically update each customer's actual preferences for said	means for updating, without input from each customer, each customer profile in accordance with the content profiles of the video programs actually viewed by that customer to automatically update each customer's actual preferences for said predetermined characteristics.	5,758,257, Claim 63

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predetermined characteristics.		
61. The system as in claim 60, further comprising:	66. A system as in claim 63, further comprising	5,758,257, Claim 66
means for transmitting said content profiles to each customer along with electronic program guide data for upcoming television viewing periods.	means for transmitting said content profiles to each customer along with electronic program guide data for upcoming television viewing periods.	5,758,257, Claim 66
62. The system as in claim 60, further comprising means for inputting customer identity information and for determining from said customer identity information which customer profile to update with said updating means.	67. A system as in claim 63, further comprising means for inputting customer identity information and for determining from said customer identity information which customer profile to update with said updating means.	5,758,257, Claim 67
63. The system according to claim 60, for scheduling customer access to data provided by a plurality of data sources, further comprising:	89. A system for scheduling customer access to data provided by a plurality of data sources, comprising:	5,758,257, Claim 89
means for creating a customer profile for each customer of said plurality of data sources, said customer profile indicating said customer's preferences for predetermined characteristics of the data sources;	means for creating a customer profile for each customer of said plurality of data sources, said customer profile indicating said customer's preferences for predetermined characteristics of the data sources;	5,758,257, Claim 89
said monitoring means monitors which data sources are actually accessed by each customer; and	means for monitoring which data sources are actually accessed by each customer; and	5,758,257, Claim 89
said updating means updates each customer profile to reflect a frequency of selection of the data sources by customers with customer profiles substantially similar to said each customer profile.	means for updating each customer profile to reflect the frequency of selection of the data sources by customers with customer profiles substantially similar to said each customer profile.	5,758,257, Claim 89
64. The system according to claim 58, being a multimedia terminal for receiving data from a plurality of data sources, further comprising:	91. A multimedia terminal for receiving data from a plurality of data sources, comprising:	5,758,257, Claim 91
means for storing at least one customer profile indicating a customer's preferences for data having predetermined characteristics;	means for storing at least one customer profile indicating a customer's preferences for data having predetermined characteristics;	5,758,257, Claim 91

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means for storing content profiles for each data source of said data, said content profiles indicating a degree of content of said predetermined characteristics in data from each data source;	means for storing content profiles for each data source of said data, said content profiles indicating the degree of content of said predetermined characteristics in data from each data source;	5,758,257, Claim 91
means for inputting recipient identity information;	means for inputting recipient identity information;	5,758,257, Claim 91
means for selecting different customer profiles which correspond to said recipient identity information in accordance with the time of day and day of the week;	means for selecting different customer profiles which correspond to said recipient identity information in accordance with the time of day and day of the week;	5,758,257, Claim 91
processing means for relating said selected customer profiles with the content profiles for the data available from each data source to the customer at a particular time and for determining a subset of data having content profiles which most closely match said selected customer profile; and	processing means for relating said selected customer profiles with the content profiles for the data available from each data source to the customer at a particular time and for determining a subset of data having content profiles which most closely match said selected customer profile; and	5,758,257, Claim 91
a display guide for presenting said subset of data to said customer for selection.	a display guide for presenting said subset of data to said customer for selection.	5,758,257, Claim 91
65. The system as in claim 64, further comprising means for storing an electronic program guide, wherein said display guide highlights programs within said electronic program guide which correspond to said subset of data.	93. A multimedia terminal as in claim 91, further comprising means for storing an electronic program guide, wherein said display guide highlights programs within said electronic program guide which correspond to said subset of data.	5,758,257, Claim 93